



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**For Immediate Release:**

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**EVENT: Guilty Plea**

**Defendant: Wagner Sanchez-Herrera**

**PENNSYLVANIA MAN SENTENCED TO 97 MONTHS FOR KIDNAPING ESTRANGED  
WIFE AND CHILDREN**

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Wagner Sanchez-Herrera, 35, of South Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, who had traveled with his so-defendant girlfriend from Pennsylvania to Detroit, Michigan assaulted and kidnaped his wife along with their two children was sentenced to 97 months in Federal Prison, following convictions for kidnaping and interstate domestic violence, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Sanchez- Herrera pleaded guilty to the July 2004 indictment filed in Federal District Court in Detroit charging him with Kidnaping and Interstate Travel with Intent to Commit Domestic Violence. He was sentenced by the Honorable Denise Page Hood.

At the time of his plea, Sanchez-Herrera admitted that he and his co-defendant/girlfriend traveled from Pennsylvania by car to Detroit. When he arrived at the home of his estranged wife, Sanchez-Herrera assaulted the victim, sprayed her with mace and then forced her into his vehicle. After collecting their two children ages 6 and 4 from a day care provider, the five began the return trip to Pennsylvania. In prior hearings, Sanchez-Herrera claimed that his

intent was to force his wife to execute child custody documents regarding the children, in Pennsylvania.

United States Attorney Murphy praised the top-notch investigation by the Detroit, and Pittsburgh Divisions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Pennsylvania State Police for their professionalism and dedication immediately after being notified of the crime. Equally as important, he noted, were the acts of three women, innocent bystanders, who had stopped at a gas station on Interstate 80. The three came to the aid of the victim and her children when they escaped from the defendant's car and asked for help.

"This office will not tolerate someone who turns to violent, assaultive, felony acts in response to their frustration over the failure of a relationship. The effect of this horrific event will impact this family for a long time. We will vigilantly prosecute and protect the victims of these acts of domestic violence." United States Attorney Murphy said.

Sanchez-Herrera has been in custody continuously since his arrest in July of 2004. His co-defendant is awaiting a trial date.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney, John N. O'Brien II.